

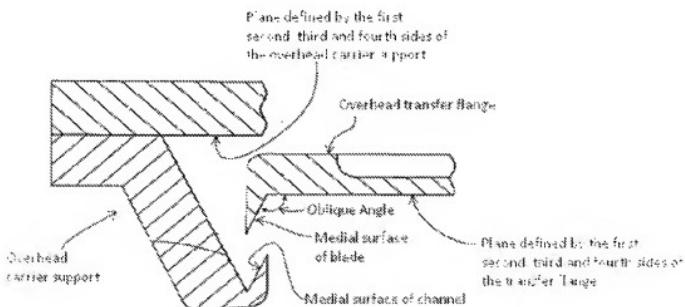
**REMARKS**

Claims 29 - 32 have been cancelled herein. Independent claims 1, 19, 14 and 24 have been amended herein. The amendments to the claims do not present new matter. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 6 - 9, 13, 14, 16, and 19 - 28 will be pending. Reconsideration of the patentability of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the following discussion.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 13 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 13 and 29 - 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,035,389 to Wang ('Wang').

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the feature "wherein a medial surface of each blade forms an oblique angle with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the transfer flange." The following figure is derived from Fig. 7 of the specification and is provided for ease of reference.



This oblique angle assists the transfer flange to self-align with the overhead carrier support and to disengage from the overhead carrier support when the substrate carrier body experiences a force which exceeds a predetermined minimum force.

The *Wang* reference discloses ribs whose medial surfaces define right angles with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of a trapezoidal plate. *Wang* neither discloses nor suggests blades having medial surfaces which form oblique angles with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the trapezoidal plate. Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over *Wang* because *Wang* does not disclose or suggest every feature of claim 1. Claims 3, 6 and 8, which depend from claim 1 are likewise patentable over *Wang* for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 9, as amended, recites the same feature identified in the discussion of claim 1 above, and is therefore patentable over *Wang* for at least the same reasons presented above for claim 1. Claim 13, which depends from claim 9, is likewise patentable over *Wang*.

Claims 29 - 32 have been cancelled and the rejection is moot with respect to these claims.

Rejection of Claims 14, 16, 19, and 21 - 24 under 35 U.S.C.  
§102(b)

Claims 14, 16, 19, and 21 - 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,588,009 to Jones ('Jones').

Independent claim 14 has been amended to recite the feature "wherein a medial surface of each channel forms an

oblique angle with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the overhead carrier support.” (See Fig. 1 of this amendment.) This oblique angle assists the transfer flange to self-align with the overhead carrier support and to disengage from the overhead carrier support when the substrate carrier body experiences a force which exceeds a predetermined minimum force.

The *Jones* reference describes a different support mechanism which does not have a medial channel surface at all, let alone a medial channel surface which forms an oblique angle with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of an overhead carrier support. The Applicants submit that *Jones* does not disclose every feature of claim 14, as amended, and therefore claim 14 is patentable over *Jones*. Claims 16, 19, and 21 - 23 depend from claim 14, and are therefore patentable over *Jones* for at least the same reasons.

Claim 24 has been amended to recite the feature “wherein a medial surface of each blade forms an oblique angle with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the transfer flange.” Applicants submit that the *Jones* reference does not disclose blades on a flange at all, let alone blades having medial surfaces which form oblique angles with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the transfer flange. However, to the extent that an argument can be made that *Jones* does disclose blades, those blades would be parallel to the plane of the flange, i.e., not forming an oblique angle with the plane of the flange. Thus, Applicants submit that *Jones* does not disclose every

feature of claim 24, and that claim 24 is therefore patentable over *Jones*.

Rejection of claims 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Jones* in view of *Wang*.

Claims 16 and 20 depend from claim 14. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 16 and 20 are patentable over *Jones* for at least the same reasons as set forth for claim 14. Specifically, the *Jones* reference describes a different support mechanism which does not have a medial channel surface at all, let alone a medial channel surface which forms an oblique angle with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the overhead carrier support. In addition, Applicants submit that the *Wang* reference fails to cure the deficiencies of *Jones*. *Wang* does not disclose or suggest a medial channel surface at all, let alone a medial channel surface which forms an oblique angle with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the overhead carrier support. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 16 and 20 are patentable over *Jones* in view of *Wang*.

Rejection of claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jones* in view of U.S. Pat. No. 2,008,087 to Stromberg ('Stromberg').

Claims 25 and 26 depend from claim 24. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 25 and 26 are patentable over *Jones* for at least the same reasons as set forth for claim 24. Specifically, the *Jones* reference does not disclose blades on a flange at all, let alone blades having medial

surfaces which form oblique angles with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the transfer flange. Furthermore, to the extent that an argument can be made that *Jones* does disclose blades, those blades would be parallel to the plane of the flange, i.e., not forming an oblique angle with the plane of the flange. In addition, Applicants submit that the *Stromberg* reference fails to cure the deficiencies of *Jones*. *Stromberg* does not disclose blades on a flange at all, let alone blades having medial surfaces which form oblique angles with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the flange. For these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 25 and 26 are patentable over *Jones* in view of *Stromberg*.

Rejection of claims 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Jones* in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,283,692 to *Perlov* ('*Perlov*').

Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 24. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 27 and 28 are patentable over *Jones* for at least the same reasons as set forth for claim 24. Specifically, the *Jones* reference does not disclose blades on a flange at all, let alone blades having medial surfaces which form oblique angles with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the transfer flange. Furthermore, to the extent that an argument can be made that *Jones* does disclose blades, those blades would be parallel to the plane of the flange, i.e., not forming an oblique angle with the plane of the flange. In addition, Applicants submit that the *Perlov* reference fails to cure the deficiencies of *Jones*. *Perlov* does not disclose blades

on a flange at all, let alone blades having medial surfaces which form oblique angles with a plane defined by the first, second, third and fourth sides of the flange. For these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 27 and 28 are patentable over *Jones* in view of *Perlov*.

**CONCLUSION**

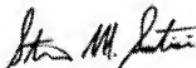
The Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the same.

The Applicants have enclosed herewith a Request for an Extension of Time and a Request for Continued Examination and authorization to charge the requisite fees to credit card number being submitted via EFS-web. The Applicants do not believe any additional Request for Extension of Time is required but if it is, please accept this paragraph as a request for such an Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants do not believe any other fees are due regarding this amendment. If any other fees are required, however, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone Applicants' attorney should any issues remain.

Respectfully Submitted,



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